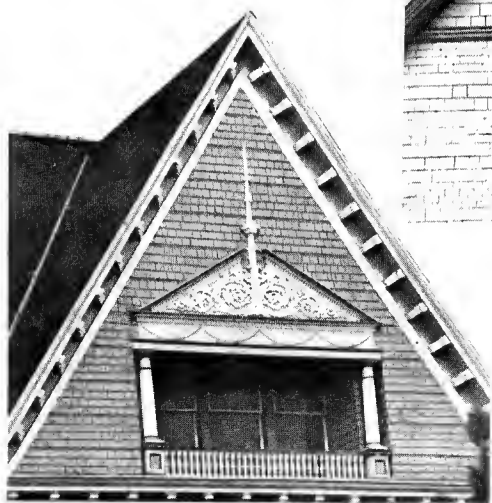
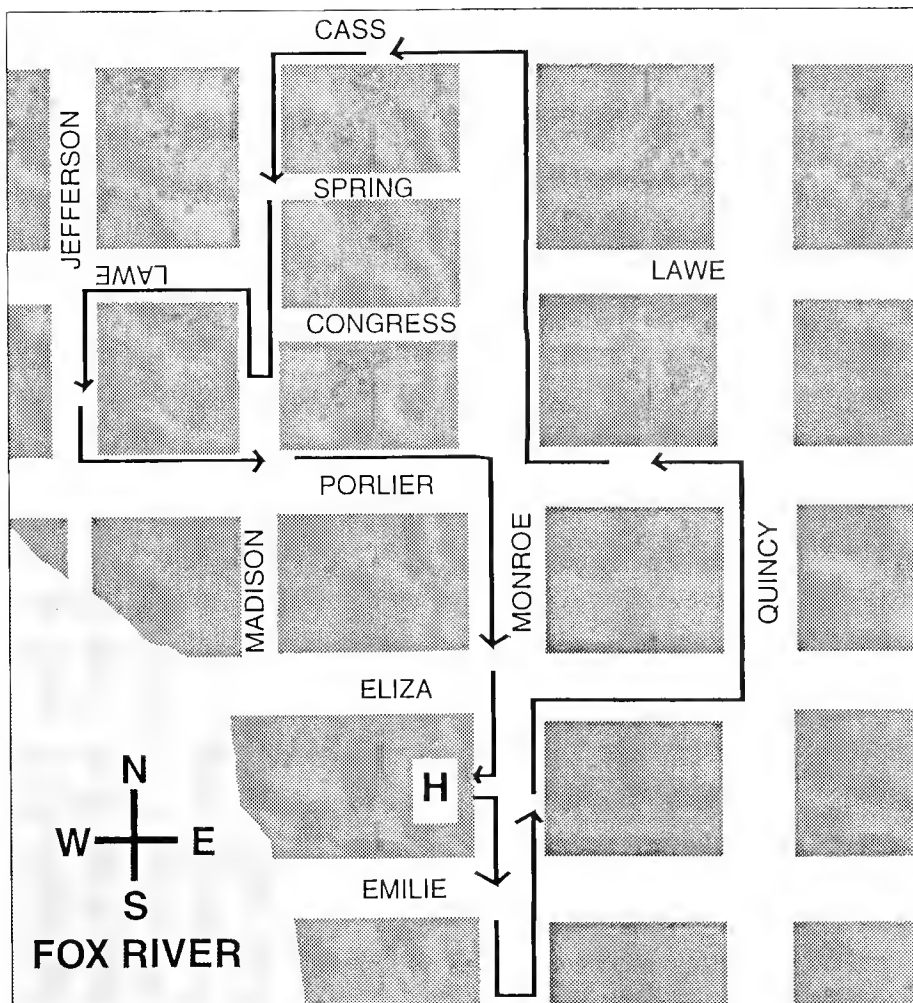


ASTOR HISTORIC DISTRICT



SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR
GREEN BAY, WI

WALKING TOUR OF THE ASTOR HISTORIC DISTRICT



H = Hazelwood, starting point of walking tour.

HISTORIC ASTOR

The Astor District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, includes some of Green Bay's most elegant high style homes and interesting historic sites. It includes roughly a 25-block area bordered by Mason, Van Buren and Grignon Streets and the east bank of the Fox River.

This district was the southern half of a township first platted as the Town of Astor in 1837 by John Jacob Astor, owner of the American Fur Company. The town's creation came at a transition point from Green Bay's fur trade era to one dominated by the lumber industry and Yankee settlement. It contained a public square, lots for five parks and sites for churches.

Some of Wisconsin Territory's earliest leaders, such as James Duane Doty and Morgan L. Martin resided here. Later the area, called "Astor Heights" or simply "The Hill," became the prestige neighborhood of Green Bay. During the city's late nineteenth century boom years, lumber barons, ship owners, civic and cultural leaders built large, imposing homes here on streets lined with stately elms. Today it is a still-thriving neighborhood of longtime residents and lively young families.



***"Hazelwood" - 1008 S. Monroe Avenue
1837 Greek Revival***

Morgan L. Martin bought this whole block in 1837 from John Jacob Astor. He was a young lawyer from upstate New York, part of a wave of Yankees who arrived on the heels of the French and English traders and settlers. When he built Hazelwood in 1837-8, there was a military road of logs just west of the house, and a narrow walking path ran beside the river, which was the main means of transportation. There were virtually no other houses nearby, and only a handful of this size and elegance in the region.

The Martin family lived here 100 years, a political and cultural force in the community which they helped found. Morgan was especially significant in Wisconsin history as the chairman of the second constitutional convention which drafted our State Constitution and as the architect of the plan to create a passage from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi by building a series of locks and dams and a canal between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. His daughter Deborah was head of the Kellogg Library for 30 years and an author of several books on local history.

Hazelwood is a Greek Revival house, a style which celebrated the elegance of Greek architecture where democracy was first created. The house resembles a Greek temple with its two identical porticos, and white siding called "shipping" with "tongue and groove" boards to resemble marble. The house once had both a north and south wing. Later a summer kitchen was added to the south wing, and in the 1890's the house was described as "rambling across the top of the hillside." The remains of two privies filled with broken china, glass, metal and bones were found during reconstruction of the south wing in 1993.



***1044 S. Monroe Avenue
1896 - Queen Anne Revival***

N.S. Kimball built this home, later owned by John Phillips, manager of the Diamond Lumber Company. It has a magnificent entry and stairway of beautiful woods, and there are many outstanding bevelled glass windows. It is being restored by its present owner, as are many of these homes. The Astor District has a thriving neighborhood association.

Note the deep gully next to the house, which proceeds into the back yard of 1030 S. Monroe. Directly behind this house and in the other back yards to the south along the river, the land is very flat. This was used as a fairgrounds and for training troops for the Civil War.



***1108 S. Monroe
1906 - Queen Anne/Colonial Revival***

This site was used as a brickyard for 10 years after the Civil War. It was considered the edge of town in those days, and the bricks could be shipped off by water. The noise and dust must have been awful for the Martins.

Across the street, note how 1125 S. Monroe is a half story higher than its neighbors. This home rests on top of a pre-historic mound. The mound was once 5 feet high, 8 feet wide, and 10-12 feet long. There were once three mounds as well as a large cemetery in this area.



926 S. Quincy
1901-2 - Colonial Revival

Colonial Revival architecture and interior design became popular after the Centennial in 1876. A symmetrical facade, clapboard siding and wide front porch are typical features.

This house was purchased in 1903 by Josephine (Crane) and Joseph Murphy.

During the Depression years a son Thomas Crane, and his wife Mary (Egan) moved in with the family. Eventually Mary and Crane owned the house and raised their family there. Ninety years after Joseph Murphy purchased the home, it passed from Murphy ownership with Mary's death in 1993.

Joseph and son Thomas Crane owned the Murphy Brokerage Company of wholesale food. Thomas Crane, also known as Crane, and Mary published the locally popular "Preble Pride" and "The Farmer's Friend" for many years.



903 S. Quincy
1896 - Georgian Revival

The symmetrical facade, centered gambrel pediment with applied pilasters, Palladian window and classical cornices with dentils are typical of Georgian Revival. An unusual feature is the wraparound Victorian porch.

This mansion was built by Albert M. Murphy, one of the Murphy brothers who owned a local lumber company. His son Elbridge, who later owned the house, was in lumber, plumbing, banking, and insurance. A later owner was John Cofrin, son of Austin, founder of Fort Howard Paper.



905 S. Monroe
1890 - Queen Anne - A.C. Neville residence

Note the carriage house. When automobiles were first introduced in the Astor neighborhood, the chauffeurs lived upstairs above the garages and were on call to drive the homeowners about. In winter they took the cars completely apart for storage, because without plows the roads were impassable except for sleighs.

This was the residence of A.C. and Ella Hoes Neville for whom the Neville Public Museum was named. Neville was a lawyer and a Green Bay mayor. Both were active in the cultural life of the community. He edited the Brown County Historical Society's *Green Bay Bulletin* and was an archaeologist. She co-founded many women's cultural and beautification organizations.

The colors of this house have recently been restored.



843 S. Monroe
1856-69 - Federal - the "Robb House"

This house is Federal style with Italianate influence and a Victorian porch. Note the frieze-band windows under the roof, eave brackets and double front doors. The downstairs has 10 1/2 foot ceilings. When Samuel Earle started building this house, the east end was built of logs (later covered with wood) while the west end was being built. His widow Alma married James Robb in 1864. She was active locally and at the state level in the WCTU and was an early activist in the women's movement. She ran the Earle business after her first husband's death.

This house has recently been purchased and is undergoing restoration.



840 - 846 S. Monroe
1902 - Georgian Revival

Outstanding features of this home are a Doric veranda and handsome Georgian dormers in the third floor. It was built by Dr. Robert Minahan, surgeon, lawyer and mayor of Green Bay from 1900 to 1904. He went on a crusade against gambling and, armed with an axe in front of city hall, demolished gambling apparatus from saloons around the city.

In the early 1970's St. Norbert College made this the residence for its president Robert Christen.

Note the carriage house in back.



832 S. Monroe
1903 - Colonial Revival

This house has a symmetrical facade with a veranda extending across its full width. Squared pilasters are applied on both sides of the windows on the first floor, and sidelights flank the front door.

It was built by Jerome R. North, known as a "lawyer's lawyer" who practiced before the U.S. Supreme Court.



***722 S. Monroe and Spring Street
1898 - Queen Anne Revival***

This 2 1/2 story home with modified turrets was built by Frederick A. Hollman, a businessman who was president of the Businessman's Association. He was influential in the development of Green Bay and the Astor community. On the third floor of the house were rooms for servant girls, often from the country, who became maids "on the hill." It was a good way for immigrants' daughters to have a place to live and to learn English.



***712 S. Monroe Avenue
1898-9 - Queen Anne***

A bell-shaped turret and a variety of shingle work are outstanding features of this home. It once had an elegant wrap-around porch with paired pillars. Frederick Straubel was head of the Automatic File and Index Company. His daughter Dorothy S. Wittig lived here all her life. She was very active in preserving Green Bay's history through Heritage Hill, Hazelwood, and creating the Local History Department in the library.



703 S. Monroe
c. 1865 - Greek Revival

This two-story stucco house has a Tuscan porch with returned eaves. Its owner in the early 1900's was Frank J.B. Du Chateau, of French pioneer descent, a businessman and a director of the Kellogg National Bank.



645 S. Monroe
c. 1870 - Early Picturesque

A brick farmhouse-style home, it has a steep gable, overhanging eaves and polygonal corner turret. The Victorian facade and frame wing at the rear were added later. In 1892 Judge Carlton Merrill purchased this house. He was renowned from 1902 as one of the best judges in Wisconsin. His wife was the daughter of Henry S. Baird, the 1824 pioneer.



637 S. Monroe
1885-8 - Late Picturesque with Stick style influence

This 2 1/2 story house has steep cross-gables, narrow siding, and four surface textures, including fish scale. Note the "sun burst" under the front gable. There are leaded glass windows and fine woodwork inside. It was built by Adolph Watermolen, an attorney, and was later owned by Dr. Julius Bellin, an early 20th century surgeon who started Bellin Hospital.

The house has been recently restored and has become a bed and breakfast.



621 S. Monroe
1886 - Picturesque

This 2 1/2 story house with encircling veranda and steep roof has carpenter gothic detail. It was built by Eben Kendall, director of Kendall Manufacturing Company. Later it was owned by Patrick McCormick, in the coal and hay transfer business.



702 S. Monroe
1880 - Italianate or "bracketed"

This house looks like an Italian villa, part of the Romantic Revival after the austerity of the Greek Revival style. It is characterized by projecting eaves supported by brackets, balustraded balconies and arched windows. It has been added to and divided into apartments. The house was built by Linus Sale, a lawyer and community leader, who drowned trying to save his two sons from drowning in the Fox River in 1892. He was one of the earliest residents of Astor.



***736 S. Madison
1898-1900 - Queen Anne***

The largest house in the Astor neighborhood, this home has a three-story turret and a variety of surface textures. It once had a wrap-around porch and porte-cochere. Inside there is oak woodwork, stained and leaded glass windows, 52 sets of windows, several fireplaces and coffered ceilings. It was built by Patrick Martin, a lawyer, who gave a gala New Year's Eve open house January 1, 1900, to celebrate completion. It was the first house in Green Bay to have both gas and electric light and steam heat.



804 S. Madison
1896 - Queen Anne

The exterior of this three-story home was influenced by the Shingle style, with siding of narrow clapboard and wooden shingles. It has a variety of window styles including bay, double hung, oval and semicircular over three at the attic level, creating a Palladian appearance. A three-stall garage and loft were added later. It was owned by Walter Gueinzuis, of the Coal and Harbor Improvement Company.



816 S. Madison
1894 - Greek Revival elements

Classical features of this house include the perfect symmetry of the facade, modified Doric columns, applied pilasters and dentils around the second story windows. The original wood siding has been replaced with stucco, and the enclosed veranda was added later. The interior features beautiful oak woodwork and an open staircase which were paraded through the streets of Green Bay in the 1894 Labor Day parade as a tribute to fine craftsmanship.

Several families important in Green Bay history lived here: William Perry Wagner, president of the Citizens National Bank and Northern Paper Mills; Elbridge Murphy, in lumber, later moved to 903 S. Quincy; Harold Joannes, grocery wholesale; and Robert Minahan, fourth generation of Minahans to live in the Astor Neighborhood.



826 S. Madison
1905 - Modified Dutch Colonial

This two and a half story home has a gable roof intersected by a third story gambrel roofed dormer. The facade is symmetrical with leaded glass sidelights on either side of the front door. The veranda spanning the front has Ionic columns and a pediment with cornice returns. An owner from the 1920's - 1940's was Charles A. Straubel, banker and wholesale cheese dealer. Their pilot son Austin was shot down in World War II.



832 S. Madison
1899 - Queen Anne

Shingles above clapboard and an asymmetrical facade are typical of this style. An unusual feature of the front porch is a single red granite column, probably added as a structural support near the recessed front door. There have been few changes to the house, but many of the original leaded glass windows have been removed. This home has fine woodwork inside of oak and walnut. It was built by Peter Peterson, a ship builder from Norway.



500 Congress Street

1895 - Romantic Revival with Queen Anne and Gothic elements

A unique quality of this home is that the front half of the house has no square corners. The walls come together at about 135 degree angles. This feature is repeated in its five-sided turret. The decorative porch has a diamond lattice and dot motif, which is repeated in the second story lintels. Narrow clapboard and scalloped shingles are typical Queen Anne features.

This home was built by O.C. Hathaway, who was in the coal business and vice president of the Green Bay Businessmen's Association. The home has recently been restored with period colors and exceptional Victorian gardens, making this a local showplace. In 1991 it won an historic preservation award from the Brown County Historical Society.



402 Lawe
1850 - 1856 - Gothic Revival

Although this house has been altered, elements of Gothic Revival survive in the gingerbread trim and drip molding over the windows. It was built by Captain Charles R. Tyler, lumberman, who built the first plank road in Green Bay on Washington Street and was in the Civil War. Later the house was owned by Charles White in the coal business and A.C. Robinson, the *Green Bay Advocate* publisher.



***840 S. Jefferson
c. 1905***

This house was built by David Grignon, grandson of John Lawe, after Lawe's house, which stood just west of this house, burned. Charred teak beams in the basement ceiling and a mantel used as a front door frame are vestiges of the older house. Part of the first house's foundation remains in the back yard.

John Lawe's 1797 trading post was on the property where the railroad bridge now begins, and in 1836 he built his home just behind this house. It was a large Greek Revival considered a mansion in its time.

In 1992 the Neville Public Museum did an archaeological dig in the yard just north of this house, finding remains of a Native American hearth and the Lawe two-holer, which was filled with bones, crockery and glass.



**902 S. Madison,
1900 - Chateausque**

This massive 2 1/2 story home is built of Belgian bricks, with a turret and rusticated stone banding on the first floor. It was designed by Henry Foeller of the Astor neighborhood. The vestibule inside has leaded glass windows, oak, maple and cherry walls, a coffered ceiling and parquet floors. The staircase up the turret goes to a third story ballroom. The mansion was built by Mitchell Joannes of Joannes Brothers Grocery, one of the most successful Belgian-descent citizens in Green Bay. He was also in lumber, banking and waterworks.

In 1917 the family added an apartment for their daughter and her husband, and it is still a two-family home.



503 Porlier
1906 - Queen Anne, shingle

Charles Cady, who owned a real estate firm, built this house for his bride Ruth Kendall, who had grown up a 515 Porlier next door. After her death he married Ethel Cady, author of much of the history of Union Congregational Church.

Note: Photos on pages 30 & 31
should be reversed



504 Porlier

1897 - Queen Anne Revival and Colonial Revival

A wide front porch with Doric columns, hipped roof, and a porte cochere are outstanding features of this house which was built by William E. Kellogg, associated with Kellogg National Bank and brother of Rufus B. Kellogg. In 1914 it became the home of George D. Nau, owner of a shipping firm, Hoberg Paper Company treasurer and president of the Citizens National Bank. Here he and his wife raised their grandson George Nau Burrige, one of Green Bay's leading citizens.



904 S. Monroe
1885-89 - Queen Anne, "The Elms"

This is one of the most impressive homes in Astor, with original colors and recently restored porch. Its Victorian gardens have made it a show place, and it has a new carriage house. The interior has also been almost completely restored. It has an oak foyer and staircase, stained glass windows, and several fireplaces.

This home was built by George Greene, law partner with Sam D. Hastings, then judges Ellis and Merrill, all of Astor. It was restored by David and Sandy Zochert, who found it subdivided into apartments with all the woodwork painted and the porch gone. There was another house here before this one. In 1850 Harry Eastman, law partner of Morgan L. Martin, built a home here, where he lived for 30 years.



***927 S. Monroe
1893 - Queen Anne***

An ashlar turret and a third floor porch under a round arch with a decorative balustrade are outstanding features of this residence. The interior has burled maple and oak woodwork, pocket doors, original brass chandeliers with hand-cut glass, leaded glass windows, and several fireplaces. On the south wall is a recent addition. This home was built by Simon Murphy, Jr., of Murphy Lumber Company, and three-term mayor of Green Bay.

Just to the south of this house is a residence which was once a carriage house moved from the back of 927 S. Monroe.



***945 S. Monroe
1905 Colonial Revival***

The style of this two and a half story house is sometimes called "Dutch Colonial." It features intersecting gambrel rooflines, and classical details such as returned cornices, squared pilasters, and dentils. The symmetrical facade has an open veranda. The many large windows admit an abundance of light indoors. This home was built by John F. Martin, attorney and civic leader.

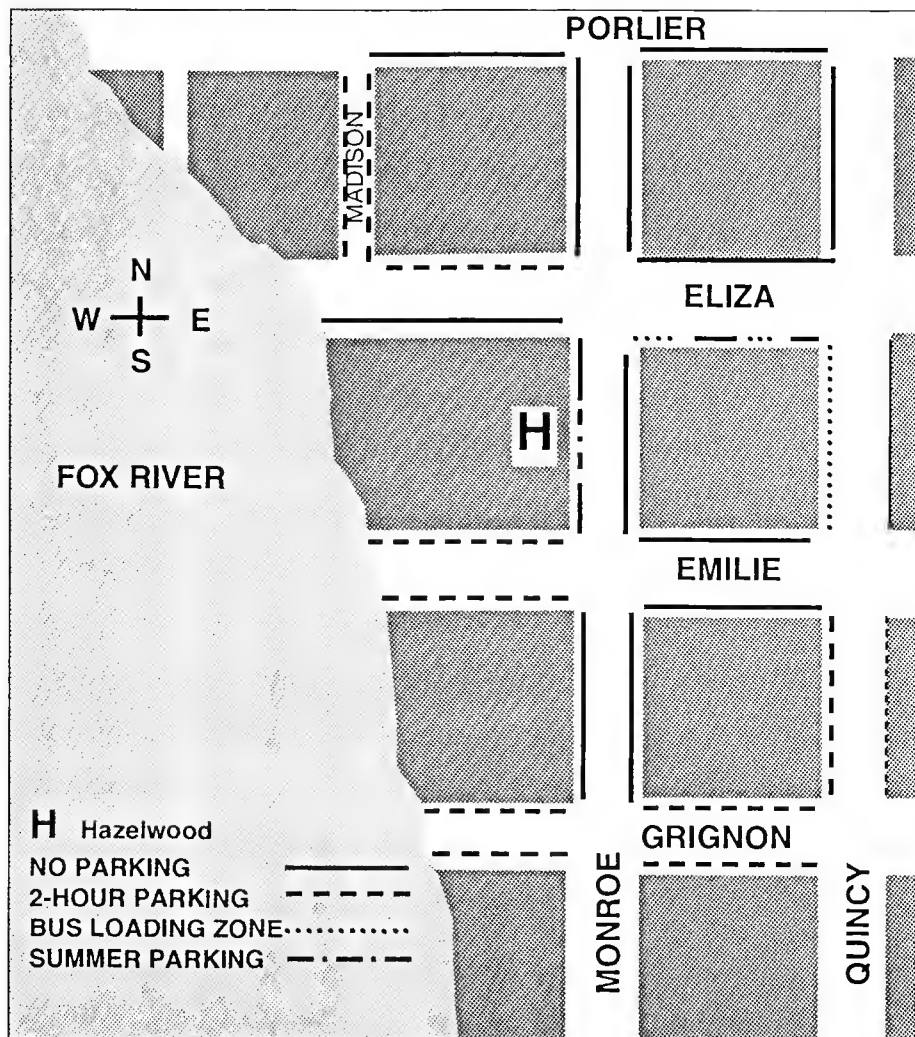


936 S. Monroe
1882 - Queen Anne Shingle

This monumental 2 1/2 story home has a massive multi-gabled roof, multi-patterned shingles, and tall chimneys. Much early "gingerbread" was removed in 1917. The interior has many fireplaces and bevelled glass windows. It was built by Howard Eldred, who was in lumber, and between 1896-1916 was the home of Dorr and Allie Robinson Clark. He was a cattle dealer and stock broker.

The home is best known as the residence of Dr. Richard and Jessie Buchanan between 1916 and 1950. Jessie was a protégé of Deborah Martin, last of a group of women who preserved and restored historic buildings in Brown County, such as Cotton House, Tank Cottage, and Fort Howard Hospital. The third floor was her art studio. The property once ran all the way down to the river.

TAKE HIGHWAY 57 (MONROE AVE.),
ON GREEN BAY'S EAST SIDE:



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